

together and unite as members of a free, democratic Nation. These individuals realize the great things America has to offer. They realize that there is nowhere else in the world that offers a better opportunity for success and a good life than here in America.

On July 4, 2007, the following individuals, representing many countries throughout the world, will take their oath of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Daniela Gomez Alba, Vanhvilay Thongsawath, Faye Ghaly Samaan, Sean David Sternfeldt, Maria Del Carmen Garcia, Khaled Abdullah Mohamed Alkadhi, Jovica Georgiev, Evica Jankovic, Khadija Nasreen, Muhammad Munawar Uddin, Ljubica Andonova, Yasser Yousof Hussein Alsalahi, Reina Ahmad Elabed, Heidemarie Nealon, Nidal Khaleel Bader, Rosa Navarro, Irma Guadalupe Gallegos, Victor Manuel Salas, Hildeberta Ignacio, Ivan Ignacio Esquivel, Edgar Ignacio, Maria Gonzalez, Vassilka Ivanova Sokolova, Jose Ernesto Munoz Munoz, Margarita Lomeli, Rosalia Aguilar De Hernandez, Ramona Garcia, Hector Miguel Rivera Gallegos, Rafael Negrete Gentil, Stan Krzysztofak, Juan Carlos Bustos, Angelina Rico De Becerra, Maria Teresa Paredes De Sanchez, Thomas William Fridel, Mirko Koceski, Zivka Koceski, Phuoc Hong Tran, Ramachandra Mukkamala, Cristina Chavez Melesio, Maureen Allyson Fridel, Omar Mehidi, Priya Venkata Vishnu Mukkamala, Kameswari Kalluri, Carlos Alberto Garcia Morales, Sonja Sabo-Djuric, Maria De Jesus Galvan Briseno, Paul Derek MacGregor, Layda Eunice Salazar, Mary Ortiz, and Nancy Takla.

Though each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free Nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals, who will become citizens of the United States of America on July 4, 2007, the day of our Nation's independence. They, too, will be American citizens, and they, too, will be guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic society, congratulate them and welcome them.

NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con Res. 169, and in recognition of National HIV Testing Day. As I speak, it is estimated that 180,000 to 280,000 individuals nationwide are HIV-positive but unaware of their status.

Today we commemorate this day because the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to plague our Nation. In Chicago, 22,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS, and more than 1,000 are infected annually.

And this disease is disproportionately impacting minorities. People of color account for 69 percent of the city's total population but represent 81 percent of recently diagnosed adult AIDS cases and 77 percent of recently diagnosed HIV cases.

Madam Speaker, these numbers continue to rise and we must do everything in our power to educate, prevent, treat and stop the spread of this deadly virus.

Madam Speaker, National HIV/AIDS Testing Day promotes awareness and empowers individuals to know their status, learn the facts about HIV and AIDS and take the proper steps to protect themselves and their communities.

In closing, I commend all of the organizations and individuals who participate in National HIV/AIDS Awareness day.

I encourage my constituents to get tested and I thank Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Englewood Neighborhood Health Center, the South State Family Health Center, the Taylor Family Health Center and others for hosting confidential testing services today in Chicago.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE AUDREY

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a native of Southwest Louisiana to remember the lives that were lost 50 years ago today when Hurricane Audrey swept across the bayou. In the early morning hours of June 27, 1957, the Category 4 storm barreled ashore, claiming at least 500 lives in Cameron and Vermillion parishes. Two hundred of the storm's victims were children.

Hurricane Audrey is the seventh deadliest storm in the history of the United States. To date, Audrey remains the only storm of its size to make landfall in June. Too many of Southwest Louisiana's lifelong residents who had been seasoned by years of hurricanes did not heed the warnings to evacuate. Additionally, the storm struck the coast hours before its anticipated arrival, cutting off evacuation routes and trapping residents in the hurricane's path.

Unfortunately, we know that the kind of devastation and misery that Audrey brought to Louisiana are not isolated to that fateful day in 1957. Two years ago, when Hurricanes Rita and Katrina hit Louisiana, a new generation of Americans experienced first hand the destruction these storms can bring.

Powerful hurricanes continue to assault the shores of Louisiana. As we enter into the 2007 hurricane season, I urge Americans living along the Gulf Coast to take steps to protect their families and their property. Scientists predict that 17 named storms will develop in the Atlantic and Caribbean this year. Nine of these storms are expected to reach hurricane status.

Advanced preparation is key to weathering these storms. Let us take lessons from our past so we can minimize the potential for harm in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 550, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 533 and 534, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. When submitting to the record how I would have voted, I inadvertently stated the rollcall numbers incorrectly as 553 and 554. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 533 and "aye" on rollcall No. 534.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES PAUL BUTLER JR., ON HIS EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Charles Paul Butler Jr., on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. Charley Butler, a long time resident of Brundidge, Alabama, in Pike County, has been widely recognized for his community service, and I am honored to add my recognition on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

Charley Butler and his family relocated to Brundidge, Alabama, in 1961. There began what would become a lifetime commitment to the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 34. That troop had been languishing for a number of years, but Mr. Butler spearheaded an effort to restore its vitality. He recruited a superb bullpen of adult leaders and lined up important sponsors such as the local Army National Guard Armory. The troop became the pride of the Alabama-Florida Council as one of the best equipped, most active troops in the region. Troop 34 consistently spent more days encamped than any surrounding troop and was the envy of all when it showed up at Camp Ala-Flo in its custom-painted Troop 34 school bus. Of most significance, Scoutmaster Butler was constantly teaching and imparting the values that are so important to the development of young men. During Mr. Butler's tenure as scoutmaster of Troop 34, seventeen members of the community earned the rare rank of Eagle, a remarkable achievement for a small troop from a small town.

Mr. Butler's contributions to the Boy Scouts have been widely recognized. The Boy Scouts of America awarded him the prestigious "Silver Beaver Award," top recognition for an adult volunteer leader. And in 1988, at "Scout Day" at the Brundidge United Methodist